

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 03688 060739Z

22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7577

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP (IEPG)

REF: ROME 1840

1. IN MEETING WITH US FEBRUARY 4, HIBON (DIPLOMATIC
ADVISOR TO FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES) DESCRIBED
THE ROME MEETING BETWEEN THE EUROGROUP-TEN AND FRANCE
CONCERNING EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION GENERALLY ALONG
LINES OF REFTEL. HE UNDERLINED THAT CURRENT WORK PRO-
GRAM FOR THE ELEVEN NATIONS WOULD BE TO DRAW UP NATIONAL
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PAGE 02 PARIS 03688 060739Z

LISTS OF PRECISE WEAPONS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

WHICH MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO SOME FORM OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT. FRENCH GOAL IS TO MOVE TO CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BASED ON THESE NATIONAL SUBMISSIONS.

2. HIBON SAID THAT NO PERMANENT STAFF WOULD YET BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE IEPG BUT THAT HE ANTICIPATED SOME SORT OF SUPPORT STAFF WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED EVENTUALLY IF PROGRAM OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION SHOWED PROMISE. FUTURE MEETINGS FOR 1976 WILL OCCUR IN ROME UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ITALIANS, HE ADDED. WHILE NO SPECIFIC DATE HAS BEEN FIXED FOR THE NEXT MEETING, HIBON SAID THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD OCCUR WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

3. HIBON COMMENTED THAT THE IEPG IS A FRAGILE ORGANIZATION JUST GETTING STARTED AND THAT IT WILL REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF UNDERSTANDING AND TOLERANCE ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES IF GROUP IS TO SUCCESSFULLY MEET THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THE ROME RESOLUTION. HE ASSURED US THAT EUROPEANS AGREE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE TO BE KEPT INFORMED IN A TIMELY AND DETAILED FASHION OF DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN IEPG. WE EXPECT TO SEE PAGNIEZ (OF THE QUAI) AND DELPECH (GOF ARMAMENT DIRECTOR) SHORTLY FOR FURTHER READOUT CONCERNING FRENCH REACTION TO ROME MEETING.

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